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Europe

European Student Relief, Series —  
—No. 41

Yet more facts,



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World's Student Christian Federation.  
European Student Relief Series No. 41.



# YET MORE FACTS.

The European Student Relief Fund, organized in 1920 under the auspices of the World's Student Christian Federation, is now, (April 1923) operating in 17 different countries. 250 universities and higher technical institutions are being served by this organization. Matriculated in these schools are more than 500,000 students.

Four new countries, Bulgaria, Jugoslavia, Lithuania and Roumania were added to the E.S.R. program of relief during the past year; and work was continued in Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Russia, Esthonia, Latvia, Austria, Hungary, Turkey, Asia Minor and Greece, and among the refugee students in Switzerland and France.

To carry on this great work of educational reconstruction 5,158,118.20 Swiss Francs in money, food and clothing have been raised primarily through contributions from students of 34 countries, included among which are Argentine, Australia, Austria, Brazil, British West Indies, Canada, Czechoslovakia, China, Chili, Denmark, Egypt, Esthonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India and Ceylon, Italy, Japan, Jugoslavia, Latvia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palestine, Portugal, Poland, Roumania, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Great Britain and Ireland, Uruguay, and the United States of America.

Through very cordial cooperation with the American Relief Administration during the years of 1920—1921 an additional 1,725,000.00 Swiss Francs contributed by the students of America through this organization was used for student feeding in Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Russia and the Baltic Countries. The grand total expended by E.S.R. thus amounts to almost seven million Swiss Francs, more than 1,250,000.00 American dollars, approximately £270,000.

By one private individual who is vitally interested in student welfare cheques amounting to \$13,000.00 have been made payable to E.S.R. within the past few months. This donor, after making what may be called a "trial contribution" was so well pleased with the use to which it was put that he immediately drew another cheque, and after a few weeks yet another. "*Money well invested*" he calls his gifts.

Other large contributions received recently from single sources include \$15,000.00 from the English and American Baptists, \$50,000.00 from the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and \$30,000.00 from another internationally famous private foundation which is working for intellectual advancement throughout the world.

During the period April 1922—January 1923 the American Section of E.S.R. in Russia served 2,151,861 meals in its six kitchens at Kazan, Ekaterinoslav, Kiev, Moscow, Odessa and Petrograd. The whole program of E.S.R. (American and non-American Sections) at present provides for approximately 900,000 meals per month, one meal a day



to each of 30,000 students. In no center does one of these meals cost more than five cents American money, and in many of them it is less. To feed a student for a whole month costs less than \$1.50 or six shillings.

While administering the relief supplies raised throughout the world through its own organized student channels, E.S.R. also acts as intermediary for other organizations in Russia. Thus, several hundred suits of clothes sent by the Belgian Red Cross to Russian professors cleared through E.S.R. Again, the Senior non-American E.S.R. representative in Russia serves by request as the Nansen official representative in all dealings with the universities.

Since its supporting constituency comprises every civilized country in the world it is, and always has been, the policy of the Executive Committee of the European Student Relief Fund to draw the field representatives for this organization from every country in which suitable men and women are available. Such a policy makes for a system of relief very comprehensive in scope and for a corps of workers international in aspect and remarkably responsive to the varied and entirely different psychologies of the students and professors being helped in the different countries.

A survey of a few of the national relief headquarters will serve to illustrate the internationalism of the E.S.R. administrative force. Included in the personnel for Germany are Dutch, English, Canadian, German and American workers; in Poland are Danish, French and Polish; and among those serving Russia's 150,000 students Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Hungary, England, Germany and the United States are represented.

Equally international are the student bodies of the universities where relief work is being carried on. In Vienna university, out of a total registration of 11,225, there are 5,237 foreign students representing 25 nationalities. Among them are

30 Russians,	828 Roumanians,	19 Egyptians,
228 Ukranians,	85 Italians,	19 Turks,
23 Lithuanians,	1459 Poles,	2 Swedes,
2 Esthonians,	270 Hungarians,	5 other Scandinavians,
1 Finn,	107 Germans,	8 English,
8 Armenians,	4 Greeks,	6 Americans
1367 Czechoslovaks,	2 Japs,	and
250 Bulgarians,	13 Swiss,	1 Australian.
498 Jugoslavs,	2 Argentinians,	

The European Student Relief has been a "Friend in Need" to the German students in their present critical position. By subsidizing the Witschafthilfe, their wonderful self-help organization, and by applying small amounts of money at a number of strategic points, E.S.R. is rendering very valuable assistance during a period when such assistance is worth many times more than it would if delayed. Both Dr. Schairer, President of the Wirtschafthilfe, and Dr. Williams, Self-help Secretary of the same organization, have been very profuse in their thanks for this timely help.

Examination of 1772 men and women students of Tuebingen University during February revealed a startling undernourishment. These students were found to have a weight deficiency of 6 to 20 pounds in comparison with American students of equal age and height. The average deficiency was something over 9 pounds.

(A more detailed report on this and other student conditions in Germany is being printed in E.S.R. pamphlet 39, which is entitled AN "S.O.S." IN BEHALF OF GERMANY'S STUDENTS.)



Sympathetically accompanying, sometimes leading the German mark in its dizzy tumble toward devaluation, the Polish currency has followed a course during the past few months that has brought terrible hardships and a feeling of hopeless depression to the Polish students. In July 1922 the Polish mark stood at about 4,600 to the American dollar. By January 1, 1923 it had reached 18,000; and in February it had declined to 50,000.

What happened in Germany has had its counterpart in Poland. Savings have been swallowed up entirely, all student enterprises have been wrecked or badly crippled and many students have been forced to leave the universities. *In Warsaw there are 505 Russian refugee students. By the first of March all but 81 of them had been compelled to give up their studies because wages are so low that no part-time work will enable one to support himself. Out of 560 Ukranian students only 86 are managing "to stick it out," and these are able to do so only because E.S.R. is helping them.* Striking these figures are, yes—— and also an incentive for increased efforts to help them with funds, food and clothing.

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In a recent "proceedings" report of one of the world's most famous societies for scientific research the following statement is embodied in the published papers of a famous European professor:

"These experiments," he writes, "were made in collaboration with Dr. J... and Mr. N..., and to these two young men I am greatly indebted for their invaluable services."

Both Dr. J... and Mr. N... have been recipients of student Relief during the past two years. In addition to his scientific research work, Dr. J... has been earning the greater part of his living expenses by sharpening knives. For both of his "comrades" the professor and our E.S.R. representative predict a useful and possibly a famous future. (Their names are withheld, of course, for obvious reasons. They can be furnished, however, to anyone having a reason for wishing to know them.)

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As recorded on page 8 of E.S.R. pamphlet 38, 250 of Russia's professors are now receiving assistance from the European Student Relief. Among these professors, and typical of many others who should be helped are the following:

Prof. Ou..., thirty years old and unmarried, lives with his mother. The death of his father from cholera and the expenses connected with the illness and funeral have reduced him to such dire straits that he and his mother were practically beggars when relief was first brought to them by E.S.R. This young man has written a comprehensive book on his special branch of science, a work which is recognized as talented and authoritative. Yet, he goes about today in soleless boots and wears trousers which are merely patches on top of other patches.

Prof. G..., a widower forty years old, has four small children. His wife died of typhus and he himself was greatly weakened by an attack of this same disease. Expenses incident to these cases of illness took not only his meagre savings but all of his furniture and most of his books as well. Today he has not only to deliver his lectures in the university and to do odd jobs outside but to care for his children as well. E.S.R. helps as much as possible.

Prof. H..., 45 years old has a wife and two small children. Not one of the family had tasted milk or butter for two whole years previous to the receipt of a food package through E.S.R. He has had no warm coat during the winter although he lives very far from the university. Besides, he is compelled to fetch water for his family for almost a quarter of a mile because of the poor water supply in the section of the city in which poverty compels him to live. A servant for a professor's family is almost as rare in Russia as oranges at the North Pole.

Prof. N..., a real man of science and the possessor of a number of high degrees, is sixty years old. His family consists of a wife, a grand-daughter and a widowed daughter. The four of them live in two rooms. He wears an ancient overcoat of which hardly a dozen square inches of the original garment show through the patches. None of the family had any stockings in December when our E.S.R. representative was first able to help them.

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According to official figures issued by the government on January 1, 1923, the exact number of young men and women studying in Russian universities is 148,336. They are distributed throughout the country as follows:

Moscow .. .. .	50,935	Jekaterinburg (Ural) .. ..	2,195
Petrograd .. .. .	35,218	Javoslavl .. .. .	2,278
Veronesh .. .. .	3,807	Nijni-Novgorod .. .. .	2,718
Minsk .. .. .	1,791	Smolensk .. .. .	2,000
Don (Rostov and Novo- tcherkask .. .. .	7,117	Samara .. .. .	2,699
Irkutsk .. .. .	2,794	Tver .. .. .	711
Kazan .. .. .	6,175	Krasnodar .. .. .	2,766
Simferopol .. .. .	2,523	Omsk .. .. .	1,151
Perm .. .. .	2,931	Goretzki .. .. .	651
Saratov .. .. .	7,660	Vologda .. .. .	105
Tomsk .. .. .	4,249	Astrakhan .. .. .	1,040
Turkestan .. .. .	2,712	Iwanono Vosnessensk .. ..	1,640
		Stavropol .. .. .	470

Included in this list are only the universities of what is sometimes called "Russia Proper." There are other universities in the Ukraine among which E.S.R. is feeding approximately 6,000 students at Ekaterinoslav, Harkov, Kiev and Odessa.

To visualize the actual financial conditions of the greater part of these students is almost an impossibility for one who has not actually witnessed some of their trials. After a trip to one university an E.S.R. worker wrote as follows:

"I did not realize what it means to be poor until I attended a committee meeting to decide upon the amount to be contributed by each student for buying wood for the kitchens and for other expenses without which we would have been compelled to close down. For nearly four hours they discussed the question of whether the equivalent of 10 cents or 15 cents (American currency) should be collected. The final decision was that not more than 10 cents was possible, and that even so at least 10% of the students would have to be exempted. More than 10% of a university's student body not able to pay a monthly assessment of six pence or fifty centimes!"

Such is the life faced by Europe's students today. They must be helped. The best way to extend this help to them, to assist these future leaders, the only hope for a better Europe, is through the European Student Relief. Contributions should be made through National Student Relief organizations, but are always acceptable at the International Headquarters in Geneva.

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